

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 20, 2018

The Honorable Raymond Martinez
Administrator
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Martinez:

On October 15, 2018, you received a petition from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Livestock Marketing Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association, and the National Aquaculture Association for a five-year exemption for livestock haulers from certain Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) hours-of-service (HOS) requirements. Given the important role the industries these organizations represent have in our states, we ask that you give their petition full and careful consideration.

Our nation's livestock, insect, and aquaculture haulers are unique among the freight trucking industry because they move a live, perishable product. These haulers play a critical role in each of these industries by ensuring the safe and timely delivery of livestock from across the country. The current HOS regulations do not provide a level of flexibility that recognizes their unique work. Without additional flexibility, these regulations are likely to delay the movement of livestock, which can result in animal welfare concerns and fuel uncertainty in an industry already experiencing the toughest farm economy since the 1980s.

Congress gave FMCSA the authority to grant exemptions to HOS requirements if an exemption ensures an equivalent, or greater, level of safety. As noted in the petition, livestock haulers have a strong record of safety. FMCSA previously recognized this safety record when it granted livestock haulers an exemption from the 30-minute rest break requirement in June 2014.

Providing livestock haulers with additional HOS flexibility through a limited five-year exemption will ensure the hardworking production agriculture families and livestock haulers can continue to feed the world without encountering burdensome regulations. These haulers have a demonstrated and recognized record of safety. Moreover, the petition filed by the organizations mentioned above includes additional safety measures to maintain this record.

We appreciate your close consideration of this petition, and look forward to continue working with you on improved safety and flexibility within the trucking industry.

Sincerely,



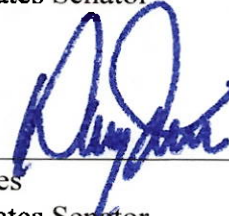
Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



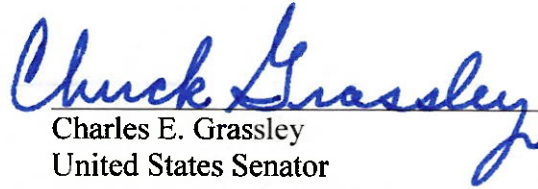
John Hoeven
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



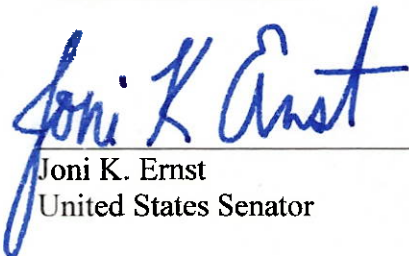
Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



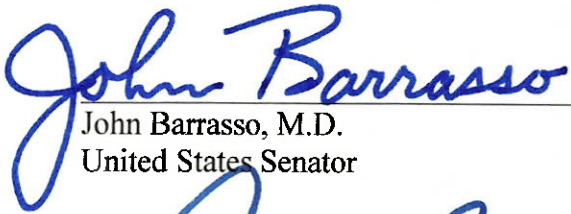
Mike Crapo
United States Senator

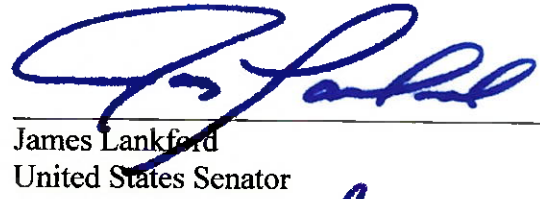


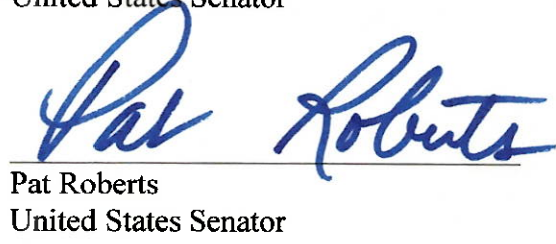
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

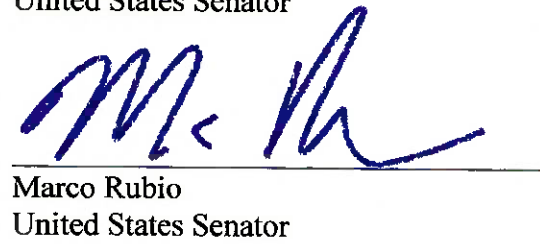


Roy Blunt
United States Senator


John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator


James Lankford
United States Senator


Pat Roberts
United States Senator


Marco Rubio
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